

From: <fish@digitalcave.com>, on 1/20/98 2:06 AM:
To: George Mitchell@OD@FDACVM

I am a catfish farmer. My two principal concern regarding the proposed changes contained in the Draft "Proposals to increase the availability of approved animal drugs for minor species and minor uses" is (1) the availability of approved drugs to treat catfish and other food fish and (2) the cost of these approved drugs.

I am concerned about the high cost of the existing and proposed approval process which necessitates either (1) a large market to bear the cost of the approval process or (2) the high price of the approved drugs.

A way must be found to avoid frequent costly registering of a particular drug (unless problems with the drug have surfaced). Also a way of registering generic drugs (to keep their cost low) would be desirable. A monopoly on a drug for a long period of time is not necessarily in the best interest of the industry or even the drug company, for that matter. If significant sales volume are not generated due to cost, no one benefits.

Sincerely,

George Ray,
President
• Fish Producers, Inc.

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